

Remarks

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 2-9, 11-24, 26-30, 46, 48-52, and 56-63 are pending in the application, with claims 12, 26, 48, and 56 being the independent claims. Claims 2-9, 11-12, 22-23, 46, and 48 have been amended herein, claims 1, 10, 25, 31-45, 47, and 53-55 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. These changes are believed to be fully supported by the specification and are not believed to introduce new matter. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the amendments and additions be entered by the Examiner. Based on the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections, and that they be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 53-55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,035,186 to Moore (hereinafter "Moore"). These claims have been canceled rendering this rejection moot.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Office Action, Claims 1, 3-6, 22, 25, and 45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moore in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,529,719 to Imbonone (hereinafter "Imbononee"). Claims 2, 8-11, 23-24, and 46-47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moore in view of Imbonone and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,169,569 to Widmer et al (hereinafter "Widmer"). Claims 31, 33, and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable by

U.S. Patent No. 6,427,069 to Suominen in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,009,317 to Wynn (hereinafter "Wynn"). Claims 34-37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable by Suominen in view of Wynn and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,930,696 to Tzuang et al. (hereinafter "Tzuang"). Claims 38-39, and 43-44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable by Suominen in view of Wynn and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,950,119 to McGeehan et al (hereinafter "McGeehan")

Claims 12-21 and 48-52 were objected to, but were indicated to be allowable if re-written in independent form. In order to further prosecution, claim 12 was rewritten in independent form including all the intervening limitations of claims 1 and 10. Furthermore, claims 2-9, 11 and 13-24 were amended, as necessary, so that they depend directly or indirectly from claim 12. Accordingly, claims 2-9 and 11-24 should now be allowable. Claims 1, 10, and 25 were canceled.

Claims 25, and 31-45 were canceled rendering the rejection of these claims moot.

Claim 48 was indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 48 was re-written in independent form including all the intervening limitations, and claim 46 was amended to depend from claim 48. Accordingly, claim 46 and claims 48-52 should now be allowable.

Claims 26-30 and 56-63 were previously allowed.

Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 be removed and that claims 2-9, 11-24, 26-30, 46, 48-52, and 56-63 be passed to allowance.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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